

# SUPPLEMENT

## TO THE

# NONCONFORMIST.

VOL. XXII.—NEW SERIES, No. 863.]

LONDON: WEDNESDAY, MAY 14, 1862.

[GRATIS.]

### TESTIMONIAL TO MR. EDWARD MIALI.

On Thursday evening, at the Freemasons' Hall, in the presence of a crowded assembly of ladies and gentlemen, comprising many of the leading Non-conformists in England, was presented to Mr. Edward Miall, the editor of this journal, a testimonial of five thousand pounds, together with a handsome silver tea and coffee service, and salver. This presentation was the crowning point of a movement which has been going on for some weeks past amongst the friends of religious equality throughout the country. Tea and coffee were served in the room adjoining the large hall between six and seven o'clock, but in the meantime the hall rapidly filled, and before the hour for commencing the proceedings arrived was densely crowded. The following list comprises a portion of the gentlemen who took up their positions on and around the platform:—Mr. John Bright, M.P.; Mr. T. Barnes, M.P.; Mr. C. Gilpin, M.P.; Mr. P. A. Taylor, M.P.; Mr. G. Hadfield, M.P.; Mr. J. Stansfeld, M.P.; Mr. F. Crossley, M.P.; Mr. Sheriff Cockerell; Mr. Samuel Morley; Rev. W. Brook; Rev. J. H. Hinton; Rev. Jno. Burnet; Rev. H. Richard; Rev. J. H. Wilson; Rev. J. Kilsby Jones; Rev. S. McAll; Stafford Allen, Esq.; Rev. Dr. Halley; Duncan M'Laren, Esq., of Edinburgh; Rev. Dr. Angus; Dr. Thomas Price; W. Edwards, Esq.; H. R. Ellington, Esq.; J. R. Webb, Esq.; J. Colman, Esq.; J. Cook, jun., Esq.; J. Rains, Esq.; A. T. Bowser, Esq.; A. J. Olive, Esq., of Enfield; J. J. Colman, Esq., of Norwich; C. Robertson, Esq., of Liverpool; H. O. Wills, Esq., of Bristol; J. King, Esq., of Ipswich; Handel Cossam, Esq., of Bristol; E. S. Robinson, Esq., of Bristol; Rev. J. Fletcher, of Christchurch; Rev. J. Mursell, of Kettering; Mr. Deputy Pwettress: W. Heaton, Esq.; Rev. F. Trestail; Isaac Perry, Esq., of Chelmsford; Rev. J. G. Miall, of Bradford; Jos. Spencer, Esq., of Manchester; W. Warburton, Esq., of Manchester; Potto Brown, Esq., of Houghton; Rev. G. W. Conder, of Leeds; Rev. E. White; Rev. Dr. Thomas, of Pontypool; J. Nunneley, Esq., of Harbro'; W. Baines, Esq., of Leicester; Joseph Cripps, Esq., of Leicester; A. Pegler, Esq., of Southampton; W. Tice, Esq., of Sopley; Rev. Thomas Green, of Ashton; Rev. Dr. Waddington; Rev. B. C. Etheridge, of Ramsgate; Rev. D. Lloyd, of Hitchin; J. Carvell Williams, Esq.; W. Willans, Esq., of Huddersfield; Thos. Roberts, Esq., of Manchester; Rev. W. Griffiths, of Derby; Rev. J. Davies, of Aberaman; Thos. Williams, Esq., of Aberdare; E. Goddard, Esq., of Ipswich; J. Noble, Esq., of Brighton; Harper Twelvrees, Esq.; R. Rumney, Esq., of Manchester; J. C. Woodhill, Esq., of Birmingham; Rev. C. M. Birrell, of Liverpool; Rev. T. C. Hine, of Sydenham; Rev. W. J. Unwin, M.A.; Rev. J. H. Millard; Rev. R. Macbeth; Rev. J. Pillans; John Stewart, Esq., of Croydon; G. F. Whitely, Esq., of Richmond; T. Bantock, Esq., of Wolverhampton; Rev. W. Bean, of Worthing; Rev. J. Curwen, of Plaistow; W. Morgan, Esq., Birmingham; H. Pidduck, Esq., Hanley; Rev. T. Lloyd, St. Ives; Rev. — Gunn, Warminster.

Precisely at seven o'clock, Mr. Sheriff Cockerell, accompanied by Mr. Miall, Mr. Bright, M.P., Mr. Barnes, M.P., Mr. Stansfeld, M.P., and other leading gentlemen, entered the hall. Their entrance was the signal for an outburst of cheering which was again and again repeated as the forms of well-known individuals were seen to emerge from the crowded assembly to take the seats assigned to them on the platform. The Rev. J. H. Hinton, the Rev. J. Burnet, and the Rev. Dr. Halley, as they were thus recognised, were loudly applauded.

After the cheering had subsided,

The CHAIRMAN rose and said they had assembled that night to do homage to a principle—a principle embodied in his friend Edward Miall. (Loud cheers.) If it had been necessary for him to introduce the subject for the first time to their notice he should have shrunk from occupying his present position, but they all knew Mr. Miall so well that it would not be necessary for him to detain the meeting by any lengthened remarks. He had watched the career of his friend Mr. Miall for many years. In his library was No. 1 of the *Nonconformist* newspaper—a journal which, when it was first announced, he feared there would be no room for, but which, after he had perused the first two numbers, he felt satisfied was conducted by a man who well knew how to maintain the great religious principles which they, as Dissenters, hoped one day to see triumphant. (Cheers.)

Mr. W. HEATON, editor of the *Freeman*, said he had been requested by the Executive Committee, of which body he was one of the honorary secretaries, to state in a sentence or two what had been done by them under the direction of the General Committee to bring about the magnificent result which had been accomplished. Towards the close of last year it occurred to a number of Mr. Miall's friends that in April of the present year the *Nonconformist* would have attained the age of twenty-one years. It seemed to them that that furnished a suitable opportunity of recognising the services of Mr. Miall in the cause of civil and religious liberty, not only in connection with the newspaper but in many other ways. As soon as the subject was mentioned abroad it was taken up by many persons, some of whom only knew Mr. Miall as a public man, a General Committee of 300 gentlemen in different parts of the country was appointed, and also an Executive Committee, upon whom the labour had chiefly devolved. The most cheering and gratifying communications had been received from all parts of the country in response to the appeal, and it was determined to bind them in a volume to be hereafter presented to Mr. Miall. He ventured to say that that volume would form not the least interesting portion of the testimonial that was to be presented to him. There had only been one unfavourable reply to the circular which the Committee had sent out, and that was of so singular a character that he could not refrain from mentioning it. It was from a person in some distant part of Cornwall, who found fault with the *Nonconformist* because of its warlike tone—(laughter)—and because it was entirely a reproduction of the *Times*. (Great laughter.) Many of the most interesting replies came from people living in poor districts, who expressed their most earnest respect, sympathy, and affection with Mr. Miall, though they had never seen him. The committee had only had a short time in which to complete their efforts, but it was intended that night to ask Mr. Miall's acceptance of a testimonial, amounting in value to upwards of 5,000l. (Loud cheers.)

Mr. SAMUEL MORLEY, who was received with much applause, then rose and said:—Mr. Sheriff, ladies, and gentlemen, I have been requested, as a member of the committee, to read to Mr. Miall an address which has been prepared by the committee, and to be, in fact, the medium of conveying to our honoured friend the testimonial of which it has been determined to ask his acceptance this evening. The statement which Mr. Heaton has just made renders it quite unnecessary that I should say one word in reference to the work itself on which the committee have been engaged. I am sure they have found it to be a labour of love—I say they, because I am bound to add that personally I have been able to render very little service. (The Rev. J. Burnet, of Camberwell, here entered the room, and was received with much cheering.) I was just saying, when our noble and veteran friend entered the room, that I feel quite excused from inflicting a speech in reference to the work itself in which the committee have been engaged. And yet I am not prepared, I confess, to perform a merely mechanical part in the engagements of this evening. I desire to express the hearty sympathy which I have in the object for which we meet to-night. I consider that we are met to do homage to fidelity of conscience—(cheers)—a fidelity of which our friend here—and he really must submit to-night to be talked about rather largely—("Hear, hear," and laughter)—a fidelity of

which Mr. Miall has exhibited one of the most illustrious examples of the present day. (Applause.) I feel myself, as a Dissenter, under great obligations to Mr. Miall. I have been a reader, with the chairman, of the *Nonconformist* almost from its existence; and it appears to me, Sir, that the service which Mr. Miall has rendered is not to be measured by the personal abuse to which he is this day subject—(laughter)—but by the cold shoulder and the cool indifference as well as opposition which his friends manifested twenty years ago. (Hear, hear.) If it were a suitable thing to do, circumstances might easily be referred to, proving the self-sacrifice and heroism which he exhibited in the early career of the *Nonconformist* newspaper. (Hear, hear.) I know what has been said in reference to Mr. Miall having left the ministry for what he regarded as for him a higher ministry, looking at the interests of truth. I honour him for the step he took. (Cheers.) I believe that the cause of religious equality as well as civil freedom has been largely promoted by the services which he has since rendered to that cause. (Applause.) The part, I confess, in the writings of Mr. Miall which has been most attractive to my mind, has been the high religious tone in which he has gone into the question of religious equality. He has not descended to treat it merely as a political question, but as having high and holy interests, which have evidently ruled his conduct from the first in reference to this great controversy. (Hear, hear.) I congratulate him with all my heart, not on the event of this night so much as on the position which the great question has reached to which he has dedicated his life. I am thankful to see him before us to-night in the enjoyment of good, and, I hope, robust health. (Cheers.) I wish him long life. (Renewed cheers.) I am told that this is Mr. Miall's birthday, and I am sure that in your name I may wish him many happy returns of the day. (Cheers.) I trust that the calmness, the patience, the perseverance, the courage, which have been enlisted in the great contest to which we in this room, I apprehend, are thoroughly committed, may for years be placed at the disposal of that most sacred cause. (Cheers.) I now beg, Sir, to read the address which has been prepared by the committee:—

"TO EDWARD MIALI, ESQ.

"Sir,—Fifteen hundred persons, whose names are inscribed hereafter, and who, as you will see, are scattered over every part of the United Kingdom, respectfully beg your acceptance of the accompanying testimonial.

"In doing so, they wish to offer you their sincere congratulations, that, on the 14th of April last, the *Nonconformist* newspaper completed the twenty-first year of its existence. They wish to express their very high estimate of the value of the services which, through that paper, you have rendered to the cause of civil and religious liberty. They wish to assure you of their full appreciation of the efforts which you have made in that journal, to indoctrinate the public mind with juster and broader views both of the true nature of the Church and the true province of the State. They wish, especially, to express their conviction, that to your teaching and influence it is owing, in a very great degree, that the Protestant Dissenters of this country have come to be felt and acknowledged as a distinct political power which no party can afford to ignore, and that many forward steps in the direction of religious equality have marked the legislation of the last twenty years.

"Nor would the subscribers confine their testimony to the value of your efforts as a journalist alone. By your labours in connexion with the Liberation Society—in the organisation of which you took a prominent part, and to the subsequent conduct of which you have contributed large and valuable aid; by your services in Parliament while member for Rochdale; by your faithful representation of Voluntaryism in the late Royal Commission on Education; by your valuable contributions to religious literature; and by the steady and enlightened support you have ever given to liberal ecclesiastical and political principles,—the subscribers feel that your life hitherto has been one of eminent usefulness, and that it is entitled to respectful and most grateful acknowledgment by your countrymen and friends.

"While the subscribers thus thankfully recognise the past, they look forward with confident expectation to the future. They desire by this testimonial



of their regard, which they trust you will believe to be no unmeaning one, to encourage your heart, to strengthen your hands, and, if it may be, to increase your influence. They desire to express their growing attachment to those great principles, with which, for many years, you have so honourably identified your name. May your life, Sir, be long spared, and your usefulness continued; may all personal and family blessings be richly bestowed upon you; may the truth you have been honoured to teach, obtain for itself more hearty adherents, and advance to yet grander victories; and before you are called to your rest, and before you hear from the lips of the Master the invitation to His eternal recompense, may it be yours to see the principles of which you have been the chief expounder, and which you have done so much to illustrate and defend, gain for themselves that universal acceptance to which they are undoubtedly destined.

[Signed, on behalf of the subscribers, by the Chairman, Treasurer, Honorary Secretaries, and the Executive Committee.]

The reading of this address was followed by much cheering. At its close]

MR. MORLEY, addressing Mr. Miall, said: I now beg to place in your hands, Sir, a banker's pass-book, which contains an amount, including a small sum not yet paid in, but which will be paid in forthwith, of 5,000*l.* (Loud cheers.) I also beg your acceptance of sundry pieces of silver plate which are on the table, one of the articles containing the following inscription:—

To Edward Miall, Esq., presented by his friends, in testimony of their appreciation of his public efforts, during twenty-one years, to promote the extension of civil and religious freedom—May 8th, 1862.

(Loud and continued cheering.)

[The plate consisted of a handsome and costly silver tea and coffee service and salver.]

MR. MIALL, who stood during the reading of the address, then came forward and said, with much feeling:—

MR. SHERIFF, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN—my kind and generous friends. What can I say to you in response to the too eulogistic address, and truly munificent gift which you have just presented to me? Strong—I may almost say overwhelming—emotions cannot be adequately expressed and yet with the calmness that is suited to a public occasion like the present. I cannot show you all my heart. I dare not trust myself to attempt it. I must leave you to imagine how full it is, and content myself with the utterance of my desire and my belief that the deep spring of gratitude which your goodness has unsealed may never be exhausted so long as life remains. (Loud applause.) First let me render heartiest thanks to Him, the spirituality, and therewith the unity, the peace, and the power, of whose kingdom upon earth I have humbly sought to promote. (Hear, hear.) Whatever of mine has tended to good has been derived wholly from him. For whatever of evil attaches to anything I have done, I humbly ask his forgiveness. If I have been able through my course to maintain my profession consistently, I owe it entirely to his goodness. Through two-and-twenty years or nearly so of various public labour he has kept me, encouraging my best motives, and holding in restraint the power of my worst. If my efforts have to any extent been useful to others or honourable to myself, here and now, from the inmost depths of my soul I disclaim the praise,—I give it unto him. (Hear, hear.) But even as a mere instrument and agent in his hand I must disclaim appropriating to myself more than a small part of the credit which has been allotted to me by your address. The peculiarity of my position has been such that a great part of the good repute that has lighted upon me is fairly owing to the work of others who have laboured with me. Very little would have been achieved in behalf of that cause and those principles which you and I love—very narrow would have been the ground even in appearance for your kind congratulations, your thanks, your liberality, if I had not been associated with noble colleagues. My pen in the *Nonconformist* would have been comparatively barren of results but for their indefatigable industry and zeal in the committee room of the Liberation Society. (Cheers.) My writings owe to their deeds much of the influence which they are supposed to exert. No words of mine can do justice to the high qualities of head and of heart which have been brought to bear by the officers and many of the members of the committee of the Liberation Society towards the prosecution of its aims. I look upon it therefore that mine is but a representative name and fame; others have worked for it, and in their several departments have worked more efficiently than I could have done. I am prouder of their companionship in council and in effort than I can be, or have reason to be, of anything exclusively my own; and it is to what they have done and to the value of their labours that I am constrained to ascribe no small share of your approbation to-night. (Cheers.) But, Sir, neither they nor I, in surveying and rejoicing over the rapid development of our principles during the last fifteen or twenty years, can claim to have been the chief agent in its accomplishment. We feel, and we desire to express it, that the remarkable progress of our cause has been principally brought about by the revival and the expansion of religious life in the Establishment—(Hear, hear)—religious life which some good men, and some men whose spiritual character we are less satisfied with, desire in their ignorance to restrict within the narrow and arbitrary limits of human law. The real danger to which the Church is exposed in her political relations results from the work of God in her own bosom. She might have defied us safely—she cannot effectually and to any purpose defy Him. Her very divisions are but the tinglings and painful pulsations of a renewed vitality; and, however she may suffer by the process through which she is passing and has passed, we detect in the agony of her internal strife, those throes of her spiritual nature which are necessarily precedent to and preparatory for the casting of her skin. ("Hear, hear," and laughter.) None of

us have any right to say, "Lo! this is our work." What we have done—what we are doing—is not indeed superfluous—it is ancillary; but we feel and acknowledge that it is only as instruments that we are capable of doing anything to advance the cause which lies nearest to our hearts. (Hear, hear.) It is, in fact, the inevitable tendency of these times—of this age—to drive a distinction, as it were, between things which are political and things that are spiritual; and we see and desire to acknowledge the existing proofs of the interposition of the Master's hand, in favour of what I may call, the de-politicalisation of his religion. We see these proofs at Rome, at Vienna, at Turin, in our own colonies, as well as at home, so that much, if not most, of our progress, is fairly owing to the simple fact that we are pulling with the tide of events, and we should greatly mistake our position if we ascribed to our own superior rowing that which must chiefly be placed to the account of the tide itself. (Cheers.) Let me add that they who count us their enemies—mistaken as they are—have done and are doing much to accelerate the advance of our principles. Their over-anxiety to drive a sharp distinction between political Dissenters and religious Dissenters, meaning to suggest thereby that activity for the release of the Church from her bonds is faction, and that silence upon the subject is piety—(laughter)—the contempt and abuse which they have lavished upon us so profusely for many years past, and the clamorous outcries which they make as soon as they chance to be hit with the stone—the confidence with which they reproduce historical theories long since exploded, and believe that by the constant iteration of fiction they can make facts—the blind dotage with which they hug to their bosoms those very evils and blunders of the system which most destroy their own liberty, their own peace, and their own spiritual power and usefulness—are exerting an influence over the public mind to their discredit, of which I think they cannot be fully aware. (Hear, hear.) Those unworthy tactics of theirs do but awaken inquiry where else it might have slept; they suggest suspicion to thoughtful and candid minds; and they are driving multitudes of the so-called religious Dissenters into the arms and the companionship of political ones. (Cheers.) Nor have their violent personalities done their cause much good, nor I think have they done the individuals against whom they have been launched much harm. (Cheers.) In this country fair play is appreciated, and wherever fair play is appreciated, a man's reputation and influence, if it have been honestly acquired, cannot be shouted down by mere vituperation—cannot be destroyed by any but suicidal hands. (Hear, hear.) The controversial misdeeds of our opponents have done much to advance the principles to which we have given our adhesion. (Hear, hear.) And now, Sir, having relieved myself from the fear lest I should interpret your congratulatory address in too egotistic a sense, permit me to express the deep gratification which I feel at having your assurance that my labours as a journalist during one-and-twenty years have on the whole met with your approbation. (Loud cheers.) If the *Nonconformist* newspaper has indeed rendered any service in placing in a more commanding and a higher position, the principles of religious equality, then I think it must be mainly owing to the concurrence of two or three causes which I shall proceed to mention. In the first place, that was the sole object for which the paper was established, and from the issue of the first impression on April 14th, 1841, down to the last impression, issued to-day, that object has been studiously and most carefully considered in order that it might give its tone to the whole of the journal. (Cheers.) In the second place, it has been my constant aim to prosecute the object to which I have already adverted upon national and not upon party or upon sectarian grounds. (Cheers.) In the third place, inasmuch as the realisation of our object must of necessity be accomplished by a political process, I have regarded it as hardly a secondary, certainly not a trivial part of my duty, to be as earnest, as careful, as exclusively governed by my convictions of truth and my sense of right, in the exposition and enforcement of political as of ecclesiastical principles. I think I can honestly say I have sought to be on the side of truth for the truth's sake, and not for personal, or social, or party, or denominational ends. (Applause.) Such has been the one great object that I have had in view, and upon this principle my paper has been conducted from the commencement. I can hardly wonder, then, that in the first instance I was considerably misunderstood. But, Sir, I may say that the course which I have pursued has been, at all events, moderately successful. (Cheers.) I can say this much, too—that whilst I confess that there may have been many mistakes and blunders, that I have done some things which I ought not to have done, and some things that I ought to have done I have done in the wrong way, yet on the whole my conscience has been in my work. I have given my unfeigned assent and consent to my teaching—(cheers and laughter)—I have taught the principles which I have held *ex animo*. (Renewed cheers.) Regarding my paper simply as the instrument for honouring my principles, I have yet been accustomed to handle it now so long that it has become almost a part of myself. (Laughter and cheers.) And to this I attribute in some sense the influence which it is said to exert. It lives for the purpose, not of being something, but of doing something—(cheers)—and all that is put therein is put there with specific, and I think careful, views with regard to the moral and to the ecclesiastical as well as the political regeneration of men. (Applause.) I am deeply moved with gratitude to know that my labours in this respect have, on the whole, been acceptable to you, and I attribute much of my success to the causes, the simple causes, that I have now put before you. Sir, the address has kindly made mention of my exertions in Parliament, and especially on the Royal Educational Commission, whereon I am told I faithfully represented the principles of Voluntaryism. (Hear, hear.) Well, Sir, I cannot in honesty take to myself any great credit for that. It required no self-denial upon my part. Certainly among the colleagues with whom I sat upon the Commission there was no disposition to make the fullest exposition of my principles unpleasant to me. (Hear, hear.) I shall ever remember with the proudest and most grateful satisfaction the harmony which prevailed in that Commission in the prosecution of their work. I can testify to the entire honesty of purpose with which their inquiry was conducted, and so far from having deserved your thanks for anything that I did there I might rather look to you for your congratulations that I had so favourable an opportunity of

enforcing the truths that we hold dear, where the listeners were willing listeners to everything that could forward the work in which they were engaged. (Cheers.) I cannot this evening go back and review at any length the course over which I have passed. I thank Mr. Morley from my heart for the kindness with which he has referred to it this evening. I have suffered, certainly, something, not from the opposition of my foes or opponents, but from the coldness of those whom I might and ought to have regarded as my friends. But, Sir, I have ever found this, that where a man's motive is sincere and his object a high one, he may calmly do his duty and maintain the utmost tranquillity of mind with respect to any of the consequences that may ensue. (Applause.) I never remember to have passed a sleepless hour in consequence of the abuse that has been thrown upon me, and I am afraid it may be a disappointment to some to learn that I have grown to be able to read the most outrageous calumnies upon myself just as I would read any other part of the paper that had not a single personal reference. (Cheers and laughter.) I deal with these things now simply in the way of business—(renewed laughter)—and consequently all this violent vituperation—all that is intended to drag me down from the esteem in which I have been held by my kind friends—all of it is simply so much labour wasted. (Cheers.) Sir, a reference has been made to the future. I dare not pledge myself respecting that which is to come. I know how I have been sustained hitherto. I feel what are my desires and purposes at this present moment, and how strongly they glow within my bosom to-night. But I think it would not be prudent for me so to pledge myself with regard to the future as in any way to infer that I have the full power and command over my own heart, my own conscience, or my own actions. I would rather leave that to be testified by what I do. (Cheers.) For the present I may say this—I never took so much delight in the work in which I have been long engaged as I have done during the last three or four months. I never felt that work to be so entirely and completely identified with my sympathies, my hopes, and almost my very existence. I think I may point to these facts simply as an indication of what may be expected to follow. Further then this I will not go, save to say this much—that if any one thing could stimulate me to devote myself more earnestly to my principles than I have done before, whether to the exposition or whether to the exemplification of them by my pen or by my conduct, it is the testimony that I have to-night that my work has been recognised, that there is kindness among my friends in appreciating my efforts, however poor they may be, and that I do not stand alone in seeking to accomplish the objects that are before us, but am upheld and sustained by many strong hands, many brave hearts, and I hope and believe, by many praying souls. (Cheers.) This is the ground of my dependence for the future, and if that ground still remains unshaken beneath my feet I trust that Providence will spare my life yet to carry on the work, of which I can hardly hope to live to see the full realisation. (Cheers.) But we who are parents are working not for ourselves but for our children. We are giving to them, I hope, a rich legacy, the full worth of which they will be able to appreciate; and if only the end which we are aiming at be realised in their day, sure I am that not only they but even the children of our opponents themselves, will rejoice together that there was sufficient faithfulness in the day of their fathers to rebuke wrong, though it was in high places, and to put down that which was evil, though it was richly endowed with this world's wealth. (Applause.) Sir, I beg to return my thanks to you for the kind and friendly manner in which you have abstracted from the hours of business, and especially from those additional labours that have been added to you this year in consequence of the office you hold in the city of London—I thank you for having abstracted from your time so much as was necessary to the superintendence of the management of this fund. I wish, though my old friend Mr. John Crossley, of Halifax, is not present this evening, to tender also to him my warm acknowledgment for the office he has sustained in connection with this movement. He was the chairman of my election committee when I contested the seat for that borough, and now again has been the chairman of the committee formed for the purpose of doing honour to myself. I thank him. (Cheers.) To those three gentlemen who have given their services as secretaries in this cause I also beg to tender my warmest acknowledgment, and especially to one of them who has arisen superior to all rivalry as a journalist—(cheers)—to all feeling of sectarian difference—and has kindly given his devoted attention to a work intended to honour a brother journalist. (Cheers.) I tender my thanks, deep and sincere, to the general committee for having allowed their names to appear in order to sanction this movement, notwithstanding the calumnies that have been flying from one end of the country to the other in reference to my name and my character—perhaps I may say because of these calumnies, in many instances. (Hear, hear.) I thank them. I thank from my heart all the contributors, not for the value of the money that they have contributed, but for the indication of good will which they have given to me, and for the heartiness with which they have shown their appreciation of my labours. And, ladies and gentlemen, I thank you for having given to me such a reception to-night as will ever be remembered by me so long as my life shall last. I earnestly pray that God's blessing may rest upon you, and I pray further, that you and I, and all who are united together in this great movement, may, if we be not permitted to see the successful establishment of our principles, be so far honoured as to be efficient workers, under the Divine guidance and superintendence, in putting forward the great cause to which we give our hearts. (Loud and repeated cheering.)

The CHAIRMAN then called upon Mr. Bright, M.P., to address the meeting.

MR. BRIGHT, who was received with rapturous cheering, said:—

I feel as if I were in great danger of marring the effect of this remarkable meeting, and of the impressive speech to which we have just listened, by any observations which I can offer to you; but apart from that, I have great pleasure in being permitted to say a few words on an occasion when I have derived a pleasure I think not



exceeded by that afforded by any other public meeting that I have ever attended. (Cheers.) Mr. Miall and I have not met for the first time to-night, nor is it the first time that we have been on the same platform. I think, in the month of September next, and on the 10th day of that month, it will be two-and-twenty years since Mr. Miall was at my house in Rochdale, when he was visiting some towns, and some of his friends, and some of the friends of the cause with which he has been so long identified, with a view to ascertain how far it was likely that a journal like the *Nonconformist* would succeed. And I had the pleasure on that occasion of discussing the question with him, and of calling upon some of my friends and neighbours to contribute to a fund upon which the *Nonconformist* was started. (Cheers.) From that time to this I have enjoyed the friendship of Mr. Miall. In 1852, I think, he became the representative in Parliament of the borough of which I am an elector, and I will undertake to say that it was a misfortune for that borough, and a great misfortune for a great cause, when from local differences and accidental circumstances, the connection between Mr. Miall and that constituency was severed. (Hear, hear.) Only this very night, five minutes before I left the House of Commons, I spoke to a gentleman not publicly identified with the views held by us who are here assembled, and I told him where I was coming. He said, "Yes, Mr. Miall is the only man who ever argued that great question as it ought to be argued in the House of Commons." (Loud cheers.) I believe that to be perfectly true, and therefore I have regretted sincerely, and I do now regret, that I cannot speak of Mr. Miall at this moment as I could some years ago, as my representative and the representative of the town in which I live, in the House of Commons. (Hear, hear.) But, Sir, later on—I think in 1860—Mr. Miall was appointed one of the Commissioners on National Education. The Duke of Newcastle in my opinion made the best selection that was possible, for what he wanted was a man of intellect, of great information, of good judgment, and having the confidence of a very large number of those—I may say of all those—throughout the country who understand what we comprehend by the Voluntary principle. (Cheers.) But I have had the opportunity of hearing from the lips of the Duke of Newcastle not only what he thought of Mr. Miall before the appointment was made, but what he thought of him after the work of the Commission was over. I have heard him speak of his courtesy, of his moderation, of his liberality, of his sound judgment, of his laboriousness, during the work of that Commission, in language at least as eulogistic as anything that you have heard on this platform to-night. (Cheers.) But going back to the year 1840, when Mr. Miall called upon me in Rochdale—from that time to this his life has been dedicated to one great purpose—the freedom of religion. (Cheers.) But that term does not half express what we mean by it. It means not the freedom only, but the exaltation and the purification of religion. (Cheers.) We all know perfectly well that he has been a teacher of Dissent to Dissenters, and of Protestantism to professing Protestants. And that great principle, depend upon it, has, as he says, been making steady progress—slow as some people think, but very sure. (Hear, hear.) It has never been adopted so far as I know thoroughly except by one great nation—the people of the United States of America. (Great cheering.) If you will read the work of Mr. Baptist Noel, published some years ago, or, as I read only two nights ago, a magnificent speech delivered some eight years ago, I think by the missionary Dr. Duff in Edinburgh, in which they described what has been done by the Voluntary principle in the United States, you can come only to this conclusion, that there is nothing which piety and zeal have ever offered on the face of the earth as a tribute to religion and religious purposes equal to that which has been done by the Voluntary principle and by the people of the United States. (Hear, hear.) Well, in Canada also now we may say that this principle is adopted. In the Australian Colonies to a large extent, if not completely, it is adopted; and in this country, notwithstanding the fierce swaying to and fro of opinion on this subject, still it makes yearly, and I may say, daily and hourly progress. (Cheers.) In the sister island, in Ireland, only about one-tenth of the population acknowledge themselves in connection with the Established Church. In Scotland at least two-thirds of the people have no connection with the Established Church. In Wales, I suppose at least eight-tenths of the people do not attend or value the ministrations of the Established Church. And in England, where the Established Church is most powerful, it is proved that rather more people prefer on a Sunday to go to chapel than to go to the Established Church. (Laughter and cheers.) Now with these facts, and with that growing religious feeling which we witness inside the Church, you may rely upon it that this great question cannot slumber. I never had hoped myself that Established Churchism would fall except by means of a great political revolution, until I found a growing zeal within the Church—a something which, whether it be High Church or Low Church—if it be zeal and sincerity—will not long stand the shackles by which it is bound; and I believe that the dangers to the Church Establishment are infinitely greater from within than any that we can measure from without. (Hear, hear.) This is a great question, and I have read for twenty years past the writings and speeches of Mr. Miall in connection with it, and I say that he has arrayed a mass of facts wholly indisputable, and he has marshalled a list and a power of arguments that are wholly unanswerable, and that in addition to this he has submitted them all to the public ear with a courtesy, a toleration, and a patience which have never been surpassed in any political or ecclesiastical controversy. (Loud cheers.) Now, what is one of the results? One of the results is clearly this, that he has created a new school in the country. I will undertake to say that he has widened and deepened the stream or current of Dissent such as could not have been hoped for before he gave his labours to this question. (Cheers.) And I believe that even within the Church itself, where there are now more godly and earnest men by far than have ever existed within its borders at any previous period,—I say that even there he has done that which has created great doubt and uneasiness in the minds of many with regard to the position they occupy within the Church. He has put the Church on the defensive, and you

may depend upon it that when the Church comes out to make a logical defence for herself—the political Church—it will be exactly as it was when the country gentlemen established a society to agitate in favour of Protection—that every man said, "The Lord hath delivered them into our hands." (Great laughter and cheering.) On this ground, then, I feel that we are greatly indebted to Mr. Miall. (Hear, hear.) I think that the Free Churches—I do not like the term Dissenting Churches—I wish we could get rid of that term, which never appeared to me very agreeable. (Cheers.) I think if we called ourselves the Free Churches of this country, we should convey a lesson and offer an argument every time the phrase was used—I say that the Free Churches are greatly indebted to him, and I think the cause of religion and the cause of civil liberty also are greatly indebted to him. (Hear, hear.) It has been said to-night—and Mr. Miall has said it—that one of his objects has been to raise this great question to a higher platform. He has done so. It is taken out of the mire of party politics, except when it comes to be discussed in the shape of a Church-rate in the House of Commons—(Hear, hear)—and those who stamp us as political Dissenters marshal in all their forces and glorify themselves in being political Churchmen. (Cheers and laughter.) Mr. Sheriff, I am not accustomed to speak in the language of flattery. (Cheers.) It has been more often my duty to criticise severely and to condemn than to praise public men. But it is not a pleasant thing always to be criticising severely and condemning. It is far pleasanter to come to a meeting like this, when we feel that not ourselves only but hundreds of thousands of persons throughout the kingdom, can join with us in the favourable estimate we take of the character of a public man. I speak, then, soberly—I speak, I hope, not indiscreetly, when I say that I admire the career of Mr. Miall—I admire his intellect—I honour his persistent labours, and, more than all, I venerate the unswerving fidelity by which he has adhered to a great cause. (Cheers.) We have heard that it is the birthday of Mr. Miall. Well, birthdays are periods, I believe, of greater interest to children than to older people. (Laughter.) And reference has been made to his future career. But let us remember that the time to all of us when in this life there will be any future is very rapidly passing away. There will be no prospect soon—there will be altogether only a retrospect. When that time comes, and as it approaches to our friend, he will have to survey a period during which he has devoted his intellect and his labours to, I believe, one of the greatest questions that can, by any possibility, engage the faculties of a man. (Hear, hear.) I believe further, that he will have left his mark upon the time in which he has lived; and I am convinced that he will have done much to promote political freedom, and what may be said to be still higher, the freedom of the human soul. (Cheers.) With this feeling—with this belief—with this full conviction—come to after twenty years of observation—for there has been no turn or step in the public life of Mr. Miall that I have not watched, and watched with great interest,—I may say that I rejoice in being here to-night to join with you in this public testimony to the greatness of his labours, and to what I believe to be the lofty purpose by which those labours have been inspired. (Loud cheers.)

The Rev. J. H. HINTON, addressing Mr. Miall as the representative of the Baptist Union, said:—

It is not on my own account, dear Mr. Miall, that I have been placed in the distinguished position which I now occupy, but as, in some sense, a representative of others. For a period of nearly fifty years I have been a minister of the Baptist denomination, and for nearly half that period I have held the important position of one of the secretaries of the Baptist Union of Great Britain and Ireland—nay, according to some of my too partial friends, I am the Baptist Union itself. Not to appropriate this excess of honour, however, I may, without presumption, say that there are few living Baptist ministers who know more intimately, or more fully, the sentiments of that numerous and important body of British Christians. And in their name, on this occasion, I address you. To you, Sir, it is well known that English Baptists have always been in the van of those who have claimed religious liberty for themselves and advocated it for others. In a period of our country's history, antecedent to the birth of its Nonconformity, they existed as Separatists from the Church established by law, and maintained (what the Nonconformists did not) that rightful and entire liberation of religion from State patronage and control, which at once supplies the public designation and constitutes the essential principle of the society to whose interests you have devoted yourself. Of this society they have furnished some of the staunchest and most enlightened friends, and I am confident that none cherish a more ardent sympathy than they in the well-merited honour which is paid to you as its representative to-day. Of this sympathy permit me thus to tender to you a sincere, though a very inadequate expression. Less for the talent you have displayed (though that is eminent, and in some respects almost unrivalled) than for the absorbing consecration you have shown to it as the cause of your heart, for the steadfast perseverance with which you have cheered on its friends, and the unflinching courage with which you have encountered its enemies, do they hold you in admiration; and they believe that, as a man raised up by Divine Providence, fitted to your time and your work, you will be held in admiration by their children and their children's children. Let the love now shown you in part reward you for your toil, and cheer you amidst its fatigues, and let it be, in some sense, a token and a pledge to you of the love of the wise and the good, not only of a future age, but of a future world—a world in which the great truths you have advocated will shine forth with a splendour before which all forms of State-Churchism shall be abashed and vanish away.

The Rev. Dr. HALLEY said he was sorry he could not put himself in a position at all analogous to that of his honoured friend. He had no pretence to stand there as the representative of the Congregational Union, for unfortunately he was not very intimately connected with any of the organisations of the present day. He spoke for himself and for nobody else whatever. (Laughter and cheers.) But as his friend Mr. Hinton had said that the Baptists had always been in the van in the great cause of religious liberty, he rejoiced that an Independent followed him so closely. (Cheers and laughter.) He (Dr. Halley) stood there to pay respect to a man who had stood fast

to a great principle, through good report and through evil report, through suffering, misrepresentation, and calumny; and when a man did that the friends of that principle were bound to do him honour. They promoted the principle by honouring its defenders. Men would learn to respect the man, and to emulate his example, whose conduct was so honoured. Oh, that that night would produce another Edward Miall, or some one like him in the next generation, to take up his work, to press forward in his cause, and stimulated by his example to cry "Exeelsior!" (Cheers.) After alluding to the loss which the country had sustained in being deprived of Mr. Miall's Parliamentary services, and comparing the former representative of Rochdale (Mr. Miall) with the present member for that borough, (Mr. Cobden), the rev. doctor continued to observe that Mr. Miall had attained what he had long since desired, and that even his political enemies—for personal enemies he could have none—would rejoice to see presented to him. He remembered Mr. Miall when other thoughts occupied his mind, and other prospects seemed before him. He never sympathised with those who thought he did wrong in leaving the ministry to accomplish a great purpose. (Cheers.) Every man was bound to serve God and his fellow creatures as best he could after serious deliberation and honest enquiry; and if a man—be his position what it might—thought it right to serve God and man in a particular line of service, he would do wrong if he did not follow the dictates of an enlightened judgment and a thoughtful mind. (Loud applause.) Reference had been made to the journal of which their friend had been so long the editor and proprietor. There had always been a freedom and manliness about that journal which he (Dr. Halley) had admired. Mr. Miall started that journal very much on his own responsibility. He felt he had a mission to accomplish, he felt compelled to do it, and nobly had he set to work and done it. He (Dr. Halley) could not refrain from paying this tribute to the service Mr. Miall had rendered to the great cause. He could not pay him the compliment of saying that he had read every line which had appeared in the *Nonconformist*, or that he agreed with all that Mr. Miall had written, though he very seldom differed with him. But he could not but value the honest, noble manner in which he had served the cause, never disgracing the columns of his journal by any personalities, by any fulsome flattery of his friends or foul aspersions of his foes, or by anything that could be called personal. He did not believe there was a newspaper in the world more free from personality than the *Nonconformist*. (Cheers.) The editor had something else to do than to talk about private character—something else to think about than the motives of other people—some nobler objects, which fired his zeal, engrossed his attention, and filled his heart. (Loud applause.) The Hon. Secretary (Mr. Heaton) had quoted a criticism of some one to the effect that the *Nonconformist* was too warlike, and that it was a reproduction of the *Times*. Was there a newspaper in existence in which there was less of a warlike spirit than the *Nonconformist*? When the people of this country seemed to be instigated by the most furious passions with regard to the natives of Hindostan, and talked about polishing off the Hindoos and destroying the people by wholesale, there was a calmness, a nobleness, about the *Nonconformist* which did one's heart good, and although it might be thought that this would make the paper unpopular in certain quarters, the editor did not alter his tone to court the public applause. (Cheers.) And last winter, when some newspapers would have driven us into a war with North America, was there not another spirit in the *Nonconformist*, and were not the people of England indebted to it for the manner in which it treated the most solemn subject that was then before the world? As to its being a reproduction of the *Times*—(laughter)—there was one sense in which that charge was strictly true. Week by week the *Nonconformist* faithfully reproduced the week to its hearers, and long might it continue to do so. (Loud cheers.) The rev. doctor concluded an eloquent and stirring speech by the expression of a hope that Mr. Miall would live to see the fruits of his labours in the civil and religious freedom of England and Europe, and in a good old age reap the comfort of the testimonial that night presented to him. (Loud applause.)

Mr. J. J. COLMAN, of Norwich, said they had been told that night that they had met together to do honour to Mr. Miall. In a certain sense that was quite true, but in another sense they were there to honour themselves. It was a high privilege to have the opportunity of taking part in those proceedings. They were met not merely to present a testimonial to him for his private worth, but also to testify in his presence their appreciation of the great principles with which he had been so long identified. (Cheers.) He was glad to feel that the appeal which the Committee had addressed to the country had been heartily responded to. Only that morning he had received a letter from a gentleman in a town in one of the eastern counties expressing his great regret that it was not represented on the subscription list and enclosing a contribution to the fund. That communication was quite spontaneous, and there were many like it. He was sure that there were many who had never seen Mr. Miall's face, and had never had the privilege of his private friendship, who had taken part in this testimonial. (Cheers.) It was a privilege to have a man like Mr. Miall identified with the public defence of Nonconformity—a man not only of public worth but of high religious character. He trusted that the proceedings of that evening would convince those who read the report in the newspapers that they were not ashamed of their Nonconformity nor of their leaders. If people chose to malign and misrepresent them they were at liberty to do so. If Nonconformists did their part in spreading their principles, such occasions as the present would do them a great deal of good as well as being an agreeable tribute of their esteem for Mr. Miall. He hoped that they would all go from that meeting determined to do more and more for the dissemination of their principles. That the meeting would have this effect on Mr. Miall, he felt assured. Some testimonials were intended to be regarded as a gentle hint, that those who received them had done their work and ought now to retire from public life. Not so in this case. (Cheers.) What Mr. Miall had been enabled to do in the past, was, he trusted, but a prelude to still greater successes in the future; and it was his earnest hope and prayer that he might be spared many years to aid the cause of religious emancipation, by his voice and pen, surrounded and encouraged by a zealous, ear



of their regard, which they trust you will believe to be no unmeaning one, to encourage your heart, to strengthen your hands, and, if it may be, to increase your influence. They desire to express their growing attachment to those great principles, with which, for many years, you have so honourably identified your name. May your life, Sir, be long spared, and your usefulness continued; may all personal and family blessings be richly bestowed upon you; may the truth you have been honoured to teach, obtain for itself more hearty adherents, and advance to yet grander victories; and before you are called to your rest, and before you hear from the lips of the Master the invitation to His eternal recompense, may it be yours to see the principles of which you have been the chief expounder, and which you have done so much to illustrate and defend, gain for themselves that universal acceptance to which they are undoubtedly destined."

[Signed, on behalf of the subscribers, by the Chairman, Treasurer, Honorary Secretaries, and the Executive Committee.]

The reading of this address was followed by much cheering. At its close]

Mr. MORLEY, addressing Mr. Miall, said: I now beg to place in your hands, Sir, a banker's pass-book, which contains an amount, including a small sum not yet paid in, but which will be paid in forthwith, of 5,000*l*. (Loud cheers.) I also beg your acceptance of sundry pieces of silver plate which are on the table, one of the articles containing the following inscription:—

To Edward Miall, Esq., presented by his friends, in testimony of their appreciation of his public efforts, during twenty-one years, to promote the extension of civil and religious freedom—May 8th, 1862.

(Loud and continued cheering.)

[The plate consisted of a handsome and costly silver tea and coffee service and salver.]

Mr. MIALL, who stood during the reading of the address, then came forward and said, with much feeling:—

Mr. Sheriff, Ladies and Gentlemen—my kind and generous friends. What can I say to you in response to the too eulogistic address, and truly munificent gift which you have just presented to me? Strong—I may almost say overwhelming—emotions cannot be adequately expressed and yet with the calmness that is suited to a public occasion like the present. I cannot show you all my heart. I dare not trust myself to attempt it. I must leave you to imagine how full it is, and content myself with the utterance of my desire and my belief that the deep spring of gratitude which your goodness has unsealed may never be exhausted so long as life remains. (Loud applause.) First let me render heartiest thanks to Him, the spirituality, and therewith the unity, the peace, and the power, of whose kingdom upon earth I have humbly sought to promote. (Hear, hear.) Whatever of mine has tended to good has been derived wholly from him. For whatever of evil attaches to anything I have done, I humbly ask his forgiveness. If I have been able through my course to maintain my profession consistently, I owe it entirely to his goodness. Through two-and-twenty years or nearly so of various public labour he has kept me, encouraging my best motives, and holding in restraint the power of my worst. If my efforts have to any extent been useful to others or honourable to myself, here and now, from the inmost depths of my soul I disclaim the praise,—I give it unto him. (Hear, hear.) But even as a mere instrument and agent in his hand I must disclaim appropriating to myself more than a small part of the credit which has been allotted to me by your address. The peculiarity of my position has been such that a great part of the good repute that has lighted upon me is fairly owing to the work of others who have laboured with me. Very little would have been achieved in behalf of that cause and those principles which you and I love—very narrow would have been the ground even in appearance for your kind congratulations, your thanks, your liberality, if I had not been associated with noble colleagues. My pen in the *Nonconformist* would have been comparatively barren of results but for their indefatigable industry and zeal in the committee room of the Liberation Society. (Cheers.) My writings owe to their deeds much of the influence which they are supposed to exert. No words of mine can do justice to the high qualities of head and of heart which have been brought to bear by the officers and many of the members of the committee of the Liberation Society towards the prosecution of its aims. I look upon it therefore that mine is but a representative name and fame; others have worked for it, and in their several departments have worked more efficiently than I could have done. I am prouder of their companionship in council and in effort than I can be, or have reason to be, of anything exclusively my own; and it is to what they have done and to the value of their labours that I am constrained to ascribe no small share of your approbation to-night. (Cheers.) But, Sir, neither they nor I, in surveying and rejoicing over the rapid development of our principles during the last fifteen or twenty years, can claim to have been the chief agent in its accomplishment. We feel, and we desire to express it, that the remarkable progress of our cause has been principally brought about by the revival and the expansion of religious life in the Establishment—(Hear, hear)—religious life which some good men, and some men whose spiritual character we are less satisfied with, desire in their ignorance to restrict within the narrow and arbitrary limits of human law. The real danger to which the Church is exposed in her political relations results from the work of God in her own bosom. She might have defied us safely—she cannot effectually and to any purpose defy Him. Her very divisions are but the tingslings and painful pulsations of a renewed vitality; and, however she may suffer by the process through which she is passing and has passed, we detect in the agony of her internal strife, the throes of her spiritual nature which are necessarily precedent to and preparatory for the casting of her skin. ("Hear, hear," and laughter.) None of

us have any right to say, "Lo! this is our work." What we have done—what we are doing—is not indeed superfluous—it is ancillary; but we feel and acknowledge that it is only as instruments that we are capable of doing anything to advance the cause which lies nearest to our hearts. (Hear, hear.) It is, in fact, the inevitable tendency of these times—of this age—to drive a distinction, as it were, between things which are political and things that are spiritual; and we see and desire to acknowledge the existing proofs of the interposition of the Master's hand, in favour of what I may call, the de-politicalisation of his religion. We see these proofs at Rome, at Vienna, at Turin, in our own colonies, as well as at home, so that much, if not most, of our progress, is fairly owing to the simple fact that we are pulling with the tide of events, and we should greatly mistake our position if we ascribed to our own superior rowing that which must chiefly be placed to the account of the tide itself. (Cheers.) Let me add that they who count us their enemies—mistaken as they are—have done and are doing much to accelerate the advance of our principles. Their over-anxiety to drive a sharp distinction between political Dissenters and religious Dissenters, meaning to suggest thereby that activity for the release of the Church from her bonds is faction, and that silence upon the subject is piety—(laughter)—the contempt and abuse which they have lavished upon us so profusely for many years past, and the clamorous outcries which they make as soon as they chance to be hit with the stone—the confidence with which they reproduce historical theories long since exploded, and believe that by the constant iteration of fiction they can make facts—the blind dotage with which they hug to their bosoms those very evils and blunders of the system which most destroy their own liberty, their own peace, and their own spiritual power and usefulness—are exerting an influence over the public mind to their discredit, of which I think they cannot be fully aware. (Hear, hear.) Those unworthy tactics of theirs do but awaken inquiry where else it might have slept; they suggest suspicion to thoughtful and candid minds; and they are driving multitudes of the so-called religious Dissenters into the arms and the companionship of political ones. (Cheers.) Nor have their violent personalities done their cause much good, nor I think have they done the individuals against whom they have been launched much harm. (Cheers.) In this country fair play is appreciated, and wherever fair play is appreciated, a man's reputation and influence, if it have been honestly acquired, cannot be shouted down by mere vituperation—cannot be destroyed by any but suicidal hands. (Hear, hear.) The controversial misdeeds of our opponents have done much to advance the principles to which we have given our adhesion. (Hear, hear.) And now, Sir, having relieved myself from the fear lest I should interpret your congratulatory address in too egotistic a sense, permit me to express the deep gratification which I feel at having your assurance that my labours as a journalist during one-and-twenty years have on the whole met with your approbation. (Loud cheers.) If the *Nonconformist* newspaper has indeed rendered any service in placing in a more commanding and a higher position, the principles of religious equality, then I think it must be mainly owing to the concurrence of two or three causes which I shall proceed to mention. In the first place, that was the sole object for which the paper was established, and from the issue of the first impression on April 14th, 1841, down to the last impression, issued to-day, that object has been studiously and most carefully considered in order that it might give its tone to the whole of the journal. (Cheers.) In the second place, it has been my constant aim to prosecute the object to which I have already adverted upon national and not upon party or upon sectarian grounds. (Cheers.) In the third place, inasmuch as the realisation of our object must of necessity be accomplished by a political process, I have regarded it as hardly a secondary, certainly not a trivial part of my duty, to be as earnest, as careful, as exclusively governed by my convictions of truth and my sense of right, in the exposition and enforcement of political as of ecclesiastical principles. I think I can honestly say I have sought to be on the side of truth for the truth's sake, and not for personal, or social, or party, or denominational ends. (Applause.) Such has been the one great object that I have had in view, and upon this principle my paper has been conducted from the commencement. I can hardly wonder, then, that in the first instance I was considerably misunderstood. But, Sir, I may say that the course which I have pursued has been, at all events, moderately successful. (Cheers.) I can say this much, too—that whilst I confess that there may have been many mistakes and blunders, that I have done some things which I ought not to have done, and some things that I ought to have done I have done in the wrong way, yet on the whole my conscience has been in my work. I have given my unfeigned assent and consent to my teaching—(cheers and laughter)—I have taught the principles which I have held *ex animo*. (Renewed cheers.) Regarding my paper simply as the instrument for honouring my principles, I have yet been accustomed to handle it now so long that it has become almost a part of myself. (Laughter and cheers.) And to this I attribute in some sense the influence which it is said to exert. It lives for the purpose, not of being something, but of doing something—(cheers)—and all that is put therein is put there with specific, and I think careful, views with regard to the moral and to the ecclesiastical as well as the political regeneration of men. (Applause.) I am deeply moved with gratitude to know that my labours in this respect have, on the whole, been acceptable to you, and I attribute much of my success to the causes, the simple causes, that I have now put before you. Sir, the address has kindly made mention of my exertions in Parliament, and especially on the Royal Educational Commission, whereon I am told I faithfully represented the principles of Voluntarism. (Hear, hear.) Well, Sir, I cannot in honesty take to myself any great credit for that. It required no self-denial upon my part. Certainly among the colleagues with whom I sat upon the Commission there was no disposition to make the fullest exposition of my principles unpleasant to me. (Hear, hear.) I shall ever remember with the proudest and most grateful satisfaction the harmony which prevailed in that Commission in the prosecution of their work. I can testify to the entire honesty of purpose with which their inquiry was conducted, and so far from having deserved your thanks for anything that I did there I might rather look to you for your congratulations that I had so favourable an opportunity of

enforcing the truths that we hold dear, where the listeners were willing listeners to everything that could forward the work in which they were engaged. (Cheers.) I cannot this evening go back and review at any length the course over which I have passed. I thank Mr. Morley from my heart for the kindness with which he has referred to it this evening. I have suffered, certainly, something, not from the opposition of my foes or opponents, but from the coldness of those whom I might and ought to have regarded as my friends. But, Sir, I have ever found this, that where a man's motive is sincere and his object a high one, he may calmly do his duty and maintain the utmost tranquillity of mind with respect to any of the consequences that may ensue. (Applause.) I never remember to have passed a sleepless hour in consequence of the abuse that has been thrown upon me, and I am afraid it may be a disappointment to some to learn that I have grown to be able to read the most outrageous calumnies upon myself just as I would read any other part of the paper that had not a single personal reference. (Cheers and laughter.) I deal with these things now simply in the way of business—(renewed laughter)—and consequently all this violent vituperation—all that is intended to drag me down from the esteem in which I have been held by my kind friends—all of it is simply so much labour wasted. (Cheers.) Sir, a reference has been made to the future. I dare not pledge myself respecting that which is to come. I know how I have been sustained hitherto. I feel what are my desires and purposes at this present moment, and how strongly they glow within my bosom to-night. But I think it would not be prudent for me so to pledge myself with regard to the future as in any way to infer that I have the full power and command over my own heart, my own conscience, or my own actions. I would rather leave that to be testified by what I do. (Cheers.) For the present I may say this—I never took so much delight in the work in which I have been long engaged as I have done during the last three or four months. I never felt that work to be so entirely and completely identified with my sympathies, my hopes, and almost my very existence. I think I may point to these facts simply as an indication of what may be expected to follow. Further then this I will not go, save to say this much—that if any one thing could stimulate me to devote myself more earnestly to my principles than I have done before, whether to the exposition or whether to the exemplification of them by my pen or by my conduct, it is the testimony that I have to-night that my work has been recognised, that there is kindness among my friends in appreciating my efforts, however poor they may be, and that I do not stand alone in seeking to accomplish the objects that are before us, but am upheld and sustained by many strong hands, many brave hearts, and I hope and believe, by many praying souls. (Cheers.) This is the ground of my dependence for the future, and if that ground still remains unshaken beneath my feet I trust that Providence will spare my life yet to carry on the work, of which I can hardly hope to live to see the full realisation. (Cheers.) But we who are parents are working not for ourselves but for our children. We are giving to them, I hope, a rich legacy, the full worth of which they will be able to appreciate; and if only the end which we are aiming at be realised in their day, sure I am that not only they but even the children of our opponents themselves, will rejoice together that there was sufficient faithfulness in the day of their fathers to rebuke wrong, though it was in high places, and to put down that which was evil, though it was richly endowed with this world's wealth. (Applause.) Sir, I beg to return my thanks to you for the kind and friendly manner in which you have abstracted from the hours of business, and especially from those additional labours that have been added to you this year in consequence of the office you hold in the city of London—I thank you for having abstracted from your time so much as was necessary to the superintendence of the management of this fund. I wish, though my old friend Mr. John Crossley, of Halifax, is not present this evening, to tender also to him my warm acknowledgment for the office he has sustained in connection with this movement. He was the chairman of my election committee when I contested the seat for that borough, and now again has been the chairman of the committee formed for the purpose of doing honour to myself. I thank him. (Cheers.) To those three gentlemen who have given their services as secretaries in this cause I also beg to tender my warmest acknowledgment, and especially to one of them who has arisen superior to all rivalry as a journalist—(cheers)—to all feeling of sectarian difference—and has kindly given his devoted attention to a work intended to honour a brother journalist. (Cheers.) I tender my thanks, deep and sincere, to the general committee for having allowed their names to appear in order to sanction this movement, notwithstanding the calumnies that have been flying from one end of the country to the other in reference to my name and my character—perhaps I may say because of these calumnies, in many instances. (Hear, hear.) I thank them. I thank from my heart all the contributors, not for the value of the money that they have contributed, but for the indication of good will which they have given to me, and for the heartiness with which they have shown their appreciation of my labours. And, ladies and gentlemen, I thank you for having given to me such a reception to-night as will ever be remembered by me so long as my life shall last. I earnestly pray that God's blessing may rest upon you, and I pray further, that you and I, and all who are united together in this great movement, may, if we be not permitted to see the successful establishment of our principles, be so far honoured as to be efficient workers, under the Divine guidance and superintendence, in putting forward the great cause to which we give our hearts. (Loud and repeated cheering.)

The CHAIRMAN then called upon Mr. Bright, M.P., to address the meeting.

Mr. BRIGHT, who was received with rapturous cheering, said:—

I feel as if I were in great danger of marring the effect of this remarkable meeting, and of the impressive speech to which we have just listened, by any observations which I can offer to you; but apart from that, I have great pleasure in being permitted to say a few words on an occasion when I have derived a pleasure I think not



exceeded by that afforded by any other public meeting that I have ever attended. (Cheers.) Mr. Miall and I have not met for the first time to-night, nor is it the first time that we have been on the same platform. I think, in the month of September next, and on the 10th day of that month, it will be two-and-twenty years since Mr. Miall was at my house in Rochdale, when he was visiting some towns, and some of his friends, and some of the friends of the cause with which he has been so long identified, with a view to ascertain how far it was likely that a journal like the *Nonconformist* would succeed. And I had the pleasure on that occasion of discussing the question with him, and of calling upon some of my friends and neighbours to contribute to a fund upon which the *Nonconformist* was started. (Cheers.) From that time to this I have enjoyed the friendship of Mr. Miall. In 1852, I think, he became the representative in Parliament of the borough of which I am an elector, and I will undertake to say that it was a misfortune for that borough, and a great misfortune for a great cause, when from local differences and accidental circumstances, the connection between Mr. Miall and that constituency was severed. (Hear, hear.) Only this very night, five minutes before I left the House of Commons, I spoke to a gentleman not publicly identified with the views held by us who are here assembled, and I told him where I was coming. He said, "Yes, Mr. Miall is the only man who ever argued that great question as it ought to be argued in the House of Commons." (Loud cheers.) I believe that to be perfectly true, and therefore I have regretted sincerely, and I do now regret, that I cannot speak of Mr. Miall at this moment as I could some years ago, as my representative and the representative of the town in which I live, in the House of Commons. (Hear, hear.) But, Sir, later on—I think in 1860—Mr. Miall was appointed one of the Commissioners on National Education. The Duke of Newcastle in my opinion made the best selection that was possible, for what he wanted was a man of intellect, of great information, of good judgment, and having the confidence of a very large number of those—I may say of all those—throughout the country who understand what we comprehend by the Voluntary principle. (Cheers.) But I have had the opportunity of hearing from the lips of the Duke of Newcastle not only what he thought of Mr. Miall before the appointment was made, but what he thought of him after the work of the Commission was over. I have heard him speak of his courtesy, of his moderation, of his liberality, of his sound judgment, of his laboriousness, during the work of that Commission, in language at least as eulogistic as anything that you have heard on this platform to-night. (Cheers.) But going back to the year 1840, when Mr. Miall called upon me in Rochdale—from that time to this his life has been dedicated to one great purpose—the freedom of religion. (Cheers.) But that term does not half express what we mean by it. It means not the freedom only, but the exaltation and the purification of religion. (Cheers.) We all know perfectly well that he has been a teacher of Dissent to Dissenters, and of Protestantism to professing Protestants. And that great principle, depend upon it, has, as he says, been making steady progress—slow as some people think, but very sure. (Hear, hear.) It has never been adopted so far as I know thoroughly except by one great nation—the people of the United States of America. (Great cheering.) If you will read the work of Mr. Baptist Noel, published some years ago, or, as I read only two nights ago, a magnificent speech delivered some eight years ago, I think by the missionary Dr. Duff in Edinburgh, in which they described what has been done by the Voluntary principle in the United States, you can come only to this conclusion, that there is nothing which piety and zeal have ever offered on the face of the earth as a tribute to religion and religious purposes equal to that which has been done by the Voluntary principle and by the people of the United States. (Hear, hear.) Well, in Canada also now we may say that this principle is adopted. In the Australian Colonies to a large extent, if not completely, it is adopted; and in this country, notwithstanding the fierce swaying to and fro of opinion on this subject, still it makes yearly, and I may say, daily and hourly progress. (Cheers.) In the sister island, in Ireland, only about one-tenth of the population acknowledge themselves in connection with the Established Church. In Scotland at least two-thirds of the people have no connection with the Established Church. In Wales, I suppose at least eight-tenths of the people do not attend or value the ministrations of the Established Church. And in England, where the Established Church is most powerful, it is proved that rather more people prefer on a Sunday to go to chapel than to go to the Established Church. (Laughter and cheers.) Now with these facts, and with that growing religious feeling which we witness inside the Church, you may rely upon it that this great question cannot slumber. I never had hoped myself that Established Churchism would fall except by means of a great political revolution, until I found a growing zeal within the Church—a something which, whether it be High Church or Low Church—if it be zeal and sincerity—will not long stand the shackles by which it is bound; and I believe that the dangers to the Church Establishment are infinitely greater from within than any that we can measure from without. (Hear, hear.) This is a great question, and I have read for twenty years past the writings and speeches of Mr. Miall in connection with it, and I say that he has arrayed a mass of facts wholly indisputable, and he has marshalled a list and a power of arguments that are wholly unanswerable, and that in addition to this he has submitted them all to the public ear with a courtesy, a toleration, and a patience which have never been surpassed in any political or ecclesiastical controversy. (Loud cheers.) Now, what is one of the results? One of the results is clearly this, that he has created a new school in the country. I will undertake to say that he has widened and deepened the stream or current of Dissent such as could not have been hoped for before he gave his labours to this question. (Cheers.) And I believe that even within the Church itself, where there are now more godly and earnest men by far than have ever existed within its borders at any previous period,—I say that even there he has done that which has created great doubt and uneasiness in the minds of many with regard to the position they occupy within the Church. He has put the Church on the defensive, and you

may depend upon it that when the Church comes out to make a logical defence for herself—the political Church—it will be exactly as it was when the country gentlemen established a society to agitate in favour of Protection—that every man said, "The Lord hath delivered them into our hands." (Great laughter and cheering.) On this ground, then, I feel that we are greatly indebted to Mr. Miall. (Hear, hear.) I think that the Free Churches—I do not like the term Dissenting Churches—I wish we could get rid of that term, which never appeared to me very agreeable. (Cheers.) I think if we called ourselves the Free Churches of this country, we should convey a lesson and offer an argument every time the phrase was used—I say that the Free Churches are greatly indebted to him, and I think the cause of religion and the cause of civil liberty also are greatly indebted to him. (Hear, hear.) It has been said to-night—and Mr. Miall has said it—that one of his objects has been to raise this great question to a higher platform. He has done so. It is taken out of the mire of party politics, except when it comes to be discussed in the shape of a Church-rate in the House of Commons—(Hear, hear)—and those who stamp us as political Dissenters marshal in all their forces and glorify themselves in being political Churchmen. (Cheers and laughter.) Mr. Sheriff, I am not accustomed to speak in the language of flattery. (Cheers.) It has been more often my duty to criticise severely and to condemn than to praise public men. But it is not a pleasant thing always to be criticising severely and condemning. It is far pleasanter to come to a meeting like this, when we feel that not ourselves only but hundreds of thousands of persons throughout the kingdom, can join with us in the favourable estimate we take of the character of a public man. I speak, then, soberly—I speak, I hope, not indiscreetly, when I say that I admire the career of Mr. Miall—I admire his intellect—I honour his persistent labours, and, more than all, I venerate the unswerving fidelity by which he has adhered to a great cause. (Cheers.) We have heard that it is the birthday of Mr. Miall. Well, birthdays are periods, I believe, of greater interest to children than to older people. (Laughter.) And reference has been made to his future career. But let us remember that the time to all of us when in this life there will be any future is very rapidly passing away. There will be no prospect soon—there will be altogether only a retrospect. When that time comes, and as it approaches to our friend, he will have to survey a period during which he has devoted his intellect and his labours to, I believe, one of the greatest questions that can, by any possibility, engage the faculties of a man. (Hear, hear.) I believe further, that he will have left his mark upon the time in which he has lived; and I am convinced that he will have done much to promote political freedom, and what may be said to be still higher, the freedom of the human soul. (Cheers.) With this feeling—with this belief—with this full conviction—come to after twenty years of observation—for there has been no turn or step in the public life of Mr. Miall that I have not watched, and watched with great interest,—I may say that I rejoice in being here to-night to join with you in this public testimony to the greatness of his labours, and to what I believe to be the lofty purpose by which those labours have been inspired. (Loud cheers.)

The Rev. J. H. HINTON, addressing Mr. Miall as the representative of the Baptist Union, said:—

It is not on my own account, dear Mr. Miall, that I have been placed in the distinguished position which I now occupy, but as, in some sense, a representative of others. For a period of nearly fifty years I have been a minister of the Baptist denomination, and for nearly half that period I have held the important position of one of the secretaries of the Baptist Union of Great Britain and Ireland—nay, according to some of my too partial friends, I am the Baptist Union itself. Not to appropriate this excess of honour, however, I may, without presumption, say that there are few living Baptist ministers who know more intimately, or more fully, the sentiments of that numerous and important body of British Christians. And in their name, on this occasion, I address you. To you, Sir, it is well known that English Baptists have always been in the van of those who have claimed religious liberty for themselves and advocated it for others. In a period of our country's history, antecedent to the birth of its Nonconformity, they existed as Separatists from the Church established by law, and maintained (what the Nonconformists did not) that rightful and entire liberation of religion from State patronage and control, which at once supplies the public designation and constitutes the essential principle of the society to whose interests you have devoted yourself. Of this society they have furnished some of the staunchest and most enlightened friends, and I am confident that none cherish a more ardent sympathy than they in the well-merited honour which is paid to you as its representative to-day. Of this sympathy permit me thus to tender to you a sincere, though a very inadequate expression. Less for the talent you have displayed (though that is eminent, and in some respects almost unrivalled) than for the absorbing consecration you have shown to it as the cause of your heart, for the steadfast perseverance with which you have cheered on its friends, and the unflinching courage with which you have encountered its enemies, do they hold you in admiration; and they believe that, as a man raised up by Divine Providence, fitted to your time and your work, you will be held in admiration by their children and their children's children. Let the love now shown you in part reward you for your toil, and cheer you amidst its fatigues, and let it be, in some sense, a token and a pledge to you of the love of the wise and the good, not only of a future age, but of a future world—a world in which the great truths you have advocated will shine forth with a splendour before which all forms of State-Churchism shall be abashed and vanish away.

The Rev. Dr. HALLEY said he was sorry he could not put himself in a position at all analogous to that of his honoured friend. He had no pretence to stand there as the representative of the Congregational Union, for unfortunately he was not very intimately connected with any of the organisations of the present day. He spoke for himself and for nobody else whatever. (Laughter and cheers.) But as his friend Mr. Hinton had said that the Baptists had always been in the van in the great cause of religious liberty, he rejoiced that an Independent followed him so closely. (Cheers and laughter.) He (Dr. Halley) stood there to pay respect to a man who had stood fast

to a great principle, through good report and through evil report, through suffering, misrepresentation, and calumny; and when a man did that the friends of that principle were bound to do him honour. They promoted the principle by honouring its defenders. Men would learn to respect the man, and to emulate his example, whose conduct was so honoured. Oh, that that night would produce another Edward Miall, or some one like him in the next generation, to take up his work, to press forward in his cause, and stimulated by his example to cry "Excelsior!" (Cheers.) After alluding to the loss which the country had sustained in being deprived of Mr. Miall's Parliamentary services, and comparing the former representative of Rochdale (Mr. Miall) with the present member for that borough, (Mr. Cobden), the rev. doctor continued to observe that Mr. Miall had attained what he had long since desired, and that even his political enemies—for personal enemies he could have none—would rejoice to see presented to him. He remembered Mr. Miall when other thoughts occupied his mind, and other prospects seemed before him. He never sympathised with those who thought he did wrong in leaving the ministry to accomplish a great purpose. (Cheers.) Every man was bound to serve God and his fellow creatures as best he could after serious deliberation and honest enquiry; and if a man—be his position what it might—thought it right to serve God and man in a particular line of service, he would do wrong if he did not follow the dictates of an enlightened judgment and a thoughtful mind. (Loud applause.) Reference had been made to the journal of which their friend had been so long the editor and proprietor. There had always been a freedom and manliness about that journal which he (Dr. Halley) had admired. Mr. Miall started that journal very much on his own responsibility. He felt he had a mission to accomplish, he felt compelled to do it, and nobly had he set to work and done it. He (Dr. Halley) could not refrain from paying this tribute to the service Mr. Miall had rendered to the great cause. He could not pay him the compliment of saying that he had read every line which had appeared in the *Nonconformist*, or that he agreed with all that Mr. Miall had written, though he very seldom differed with him. But he could not but value the honest, noble manner in which he had served the cause, never disgracing the columns of his journal by any personalities, by any fulsome flattery of his friends or foul aspersions of his foes, or by anything that could be called personal. He did not believe there was a newspaper in the world more free from personality than the *Nonconformist*. (Cheers.) The editor had something else to do than to talk about private character—something else to think about than the motives of other people—some nobler objects, which fired his zeal, engrossed his attention, and filled his heart. (Loud applause.) The Hon. Secretary (Mr. Heaton) had quoted a criticism of some one to the effect that the *Nonconformist* was too warlike, and that it was a reproduction of the *Times*. Was there a newspaper in existence in which there was less of a warlike spirit than the *Nonconformist*? When the people of this country seemed to be instigated by the most furious passions with regard to the natives of Hindostan, and talked about polishing off the Hindoos and destroying the people by wholesale, there was a calmness, a nobleness, about the *Nonconformist* which did one's heart good, and although it might be thought that this would make the paper unpopular in certain quarters, the editor did not alter his tone to court the public applause. (Cheers.) And last winter, when some newspapers would have driven us into a war with North America, was there not another spirit in the *Nonconformist*, and were not the people of England indebted to it for the manner in which it treated the most solemn subject that was then before the world? As to its being a reproduction of the *Times*—(laughter)—there was one sense in which that charge was strictly true. Week by week the *Nonconformist* faithfully reproduced the week to its hearers, and long might it continue to do so. (Loud cheers.) The rev. doctor concluded an eloquent and stirring speech by the expression of a hope that Mr. Miall would live to see the fruits of his labours in the civil and religious freedom of England and Europe, and in a good old age reap the comfort of the testimonial that might be presented to him. (Loud applause.)

Mr. J. J. COLMAN, of Norwich, said they had been told that night that they had met together to do honour to Mr. Miall. In a certain sense that was quite true, but in another sense they were there to honour themselves. It was a high privilege to have the opportunity of taking part in those proceedings. They were met not merely to present a testimonial to him for his private worth, but also to testify in his presence their appreciation of the great principles with which he had been so long identified. (Cheers.) He was glad to feel that the appeal which the Committee had addressed to the country had been heartily responded to. Only that morning he had received a letter from a gentleman in a town in one of the eastern counties expressing his great regret that it was not represented on the subscription list and enclosing a contribution to the fund. That communication was quite spontaneous, and there were many like it. He was sure that there were many who had never seen Mr. Miall's face, and had never had the privilege of his private friendship, who had taken part in this testimonial. (Cheers.) It was a privilege to have a man like Mr. Miall identified with the public defence of Nonconformity—a man not only of public worth but of high religious character. He trusted that the proceedings of that evening would convince those who read the report in the newspapers that they were not ashamed of their Nonconformity nor of their leaders. If people chose to malign and misrepresent them they were at liberty to do so. If Nonconformists did their part in spreading their principles, such occasions as the present would do them a great deal of good as well as being an agreeable tribute to their esteem for Mr. Miall. He hoped that they would all go from that meeting determined to do more and more for the dissemination of their principles. That the meeting would have this effect on Mr. Miall, he felt assured. Some testimonials were intended to be regarded as a gentle hint, that those who received them had done their work and ought now to retire from public life. Not so in this case. (Cheers.) What Mr. Miall had been enabled to do in the past, was, he trusted, but a prelude to still greater successes in the future; and it was his earnest hope and prayer that he might be spared many years to aid the cause of religious emancipation, by his voice and pen, surrounded and encouraged by a zealous, ear



ment, and increasing band of those who would do God's work. (Applause.)

Mr. FRANK CROSSLEY, M.P., who entered the room towards the close of the proceedings, said he was not aware that he should be called upon to make a speech, but he had hastened from the House of Commons in the midst of an important debate, in order to testify his respect for the private and public character of Mr. Miall. He had taken in the *Nonconformist* for fifteen years, and could willingly give his testimony to its value. Mr. Miall had a wonderful facility of compressing a great deal into a few words, and if all men knew the value of time, they would appreciate that quality more than they did. He always read the Summary of the *Nonconformist*. If he was at any time so busy as not to be able to read the newspapers for a few days, he turned to that Summary, and he always found that he got a snatch at every important item of intelligence. (Cheers.) When he contested the West Riding of Yorkshire a great many questions were put to him on political matters, and some on religious matters. It was a thing previously unknown for a Nonconformist to contest the West Riding, and to expect to be returned seemed very ridiculous. (Laughter.) He did not, however, flinch from his principles, though he took care to show that he respected the opinions and principles of others. He remembered on one occasion the question being put to him whether he voted for Mr. Miall in 1847? He replied that he not only voted for him, but proposed him as a fit and proper person to represent Halifax in Parliament, and that a more honourable man he would never wish to meet with. (Cheers.) It was a great mistake, however, for people to fix any one's political or religious creed exactly after the pattern of the candidate they voted for. It was impossible for a man so to divide himself as to agree with everybody, and the only thing electors could do was to vote for the man whose opinions came nearest to their own. This was the principle he adopted at Halifax, and though he did not always agree with Mr. Miall, yet he looked upon him as one of the most straightforward, honourable and upright politicians he had ever had the good fortune to meet. He had had the pleasure of sitting side by side with Mr. Miall as the member for Rochdale, and he could testify that all who had the honour to know him during the time he was in Parliament respected him, and he made many friends and very few enemies. He (Mr. Crossley) never subscribed to a testimonial with greater pleasure than he had done to this, and he trusted their friend would live long and be useful in carrying on that great work to which he had devoted his life. (Applause.)

Mr. DUNCAN M'LAREN, of Edinburgh, said: Mr. Sheriff, ladies and gentlemen,—I have been asked to say a few words to-night, to represent the feeling of the Dissenters of Scotland in reference to this testimonial to Mr. Miall. (Cheers.) It would be quite out of all propriety for me to detain you with any lengthened observations at this hour of the evening; and my words, therefore, shall be very few. I concur in all that has been said in favour of Mr. Miall's principles as a Dissenter, of his labours as editor of the *Nonconformist*, and of his Parliamentary career and general public usefulness. I feel that it would be impossible to over estimate the good he has done in the sphere which he has selected for himself. Every one who has been a close newspaper reader for the last thirty years must have remarked a wonderful change in the character and tone of newspaper writing during that period. Formerly asperity, bitterness, strife, and personality, were considered as making strong, vigorous, and telling writing. Happily, a great change has taken place, and strong logical argument and careful analysis has taken the place of vituperation, at least in the newspapers which most influence the country. Now, I will undertake to say that there is no newspaper which has so uniformly abstained from that kind of personal writing and set such a good example to others as the *Nonconformist*. Our friend Mr. Miall's usefulness has consisted, not in the bitterness of his attacks upon his opponents, but in the calm and philosophical discussion of facts bearing upon the great question which he has made peculiarly his own. (Cheers.) The Dissenters of Scotland feel very deeply interested in the cause which you have met here to-night to celebrate. (Hear, hear.) I need not tell you that it is not convenient for many people to travel great distances to attend meetings, but you are not to suppose because there may be few present from the part of the country which I represent, that the sympathy of thousands does not go along with you to-night. (Cheers.) Mr. Miall's usefulness in Parliament cannot, I think, be sufficiently dwelt upon. There was a series of questions which he made peculiarly his own, and whenever an opportunity occurred, he came out with the influence of his name and his talents, in the House to counteract the bad legislation with which we were threatened and to obtain that legislation which should be alike just to all classes of the country. I have often heard a wonder expressed over and over again in the north, that Mr. Miall should not now be in Parliament, and it is my opinion that there is no man out of Parliament who would be so useful within the House as he. (Applause.) I hope, therefore, that the Nonconformists of this country, having done honour to him by presenting to him this splendid testimonial, will follow up the word and do honour to themselves by returning Mr. Miall at the first opportunity to Parliament. (Loud applause.) By doing so they will, no doubt, confer an honour upon Mr. Miall, though no greater than he deserves, while they will confer a still greater honour on the cause they advocate. Unless this movement have that result, you cannot regard it as in all respects what it ought to be. (Hear, hear.) I beg, therefore, to say that I most cordially sympathise in all that has been said to-night in honour of our respected friend, and I hope that every good man may attend his path in the future. (Loud cheers.)

The Rev. J. FLETCHER, of Christchurch, proposed a vote of thanks to the Executive Committee and officers for their exertions in bringing this movement to a successful issue.

Mr. E. MIALL begged permission to second the motion. He felt greatly indebted to the gentlemen who were referred to for the time and energy they had devoted to the subject. He also begged once more to express the deep feeling of gratitude which he felt to those who had gathered round him on that occasion for the kind and generous manner in which they had recognised any portion of his services.

The resolution was carried.

The Rev. H. RICHARD: I have been requested, on behalf of the Executive Committee, in two or three sentences, to say how much obliged we are to you for your kind appreciation of their services. Of course it is pleasant to them to receive this token of your approbation, but I am sure I can answer on behalf of my colleagues, that so far from requiring any acknowledgment for our services, we have found our reward in our labour, so cordial, earnest, affectionate and enthusiastic has been the response to our appeal from all parts of the country. Perhaps you will allow me to mention, before I conclude, one little incident that was brought to my remembrance by Mr. Bright's allusion to his early acquaintance with Mr. Miall twenty-two years ago. On looking lately over some papers belonging to my late honoured friend, Joseph Sturge, of Birmingham, which have come into my hands for a particular purpose, I found there a letter from Mr. Miall to Mr. Sturge, written I suppose after he had been going round the country to seek interest and sympathy in behalf of the *Nonconformist*. The letter contains this sentence:—"One of the most earnest and sound-hearted and promising young men that I have met with anywhere during my travels is Mr. John Bright, of Rochdale." (Cheers and laughter.) I have no doubt there was somebody writing a similar sentence with regard to Mr. Miall at the same time, and I think you will admit that both have grown up into a tolerably vigorous and robust manhood. (Loud cheers.)

A vote of thanks to the Chairman, proposed by Mr. W. HEATON, and seconded by Mr. W. EDWARDS, terminated the proceedings.

#### RELIGIOUS INTELLIGENCE.

CARRICKFERGUS.—The Rev. W. D. Corken, of Carrickfergus, Ireland, has announced his intention of resigning the pastorate of the church in that town, where he has laboured successfully since 1857, in consequence of the continued indisposition of his wife, arising from the severity of the climate.

WESTBURY, WILTS.—On the 21st, at the conclusion of the Bible-class held on Monday evening in connection with the Old Meeting, the young people presented the pastor, the Rev. T. Hind, with a very handsome drawing-room clock, and an appropriate address was read. The Rev. T. Hind replied to the address in a very affectionate manner. The proceedings terminated with singing and prayer.

DORSETSHIRE.—The meetings of the Dorset County Association took place April 29 and 30 at Weymouth, and were throughout of a Bicentenary character. On the 29th a sermon was preached in Nicholas-street Chapel (Rev. R. S. Ashton's) by the Rev. John Rogers, on "The Walk of Faith, as illustrated by the 2,000 Ministers ejected for Nonconformity, August 24, 1662." On the 30th, a public meeting was held in Hope Chapel, presided over by the Rev. W. Lewis, when Bicentenary addresses were delivered by the Revs. R. T. Verrall, B.A., of Poole; U. B. Randall, M.A., of Wareham; B. Gray, B.A., of Blandford; and F. Beckley, of Sherborne.

MARKET WRIGHTON.—On Tuesday fortnight the Rev. S. Jones was publicly set apart to the pastorate of the church and congregation assembling in the Congregational chapel in this town. The Rev. J. Sibree, of Hull, asked the usual questions, and offered the ordination prayer. The Rev. J. Frost, principal of Cotton-end Theological Institution, delivered a powerful and impressive charge to the young minister. At five o'clock there was a public tea in the Temperance Hall, when about 150 sat down to an excellent repast. In the evening the Rev. H. Ollerenshaw, of Hull, preached to the people. The Rev. J. Menzies, of South Cave, also took part in the service.

MITCHAM.—On the 30th ult. a *soirée* was held at Zion Chapel, Mitcham, in order to take leave of the Rev. George Stewart, who has accepted a cordial call from St. James's, Newcastle-upon-Tyne, to become the successor of the Rev. Frederick Stephens, now of Croydon. Mr. Welsh presented an address from the members of the church, accompanied by a purse containing 53l. The Revs. Robert Ashton (presiding); Anderson, of Tooting; Davison, of Wandsworth; Mackennall, of Surbiton; Davies, of Merton; Evans, of Putney; and Ketley, of Farmington, severally addressed the meeting, expressing their regret at the departure of Mr. Stewart. Mr. Stephens was present to congratulate his successor, and the Revs. Dr. Massey and Alexander Stewart conducted the devotional exercises. Mr. Stewart commences his labours at Newcastle on Sunday next.

FOREIGN PREACHING AT THE ROYAL GERMAN CHAPEL, ST. JAMES'S PALACE.—On Sunday, by her Majesty's royal license, the Queen's German Chapel at St. James's was opened for Divine service, by the celebrated historian of the Reformation, the Rev. Dr. Merle D'Aubigné, of Geneva. The service was commenced at three o'clock, by the rev. preacher reading in French the commencement of the English Church Service, a portion of the Psalms and 3rd chapter of 1st Corinthians. Extempore prayer was also offered, and two French hymns were sung at intervals, from a selection made by the Foreign Conference and Evangelization Committee. These hymns are chiefly from the "Cantiques" of Dr. Malan, of Geneva. The sermon occupied nearly three quarters of an hour, from the words closing the 21st verse of the 3rd chapter of Corinthians to the end of the chapter. The service concluded about half-past four o'clock. All the pews of the chapel were occupied except the Royal gallery, and many were seated on benches; but the chapel does not hold above 250 or 300 people. The sermon next Sunday is to be preached by Dr. Grandpierre, of Paris, at three o'clock, in the same chapel. Dr. Krummacher, the well-known author of "Elijah the Tishbite," will preach in German, at 6.30 p.m., and

Dr. Merle D'Aubigné will also preach in French on the same day, at 6.30 p.m., in the Royal Military Chapel, Wellington Barracks.

THE WELSH MEMORIAL CHAPEL AT SHREWSBURY.—On Sabbath-day, the 27th of April, the first public services were held in the above place of worship. English sermons were delivered in the morning and evening by the Rev. J. C. Galloway, M.A., of London, and a Welsh service was held in the afternoon. The following inscription is engraved above the door:—"The Tabernacle: a Memorial of 1662. Erected 1862." The building will hold about 400. At the back of it there is a vestry and school-room, and a house for the chapel-keeper. The school-rooms are communicated with the chapel by a large arch which can be opened, and this will increase the accommodation for the audience when required.

CONGREGATIONAL CHAPEL, STOKE-UPON-TRENT.—On Tuesday, the 22nd April, the Rev. J. W. Walker, B.A., of Spring-hill College, Birmingham, was publicly ordained to the pastorate of the church and congregation assembling in the above place of worship. The Rev. J. Hankinson, of Leek, gave out the first hymn. The Rev. E. McAll, of the Tabernacle Chapel, Hanley, then read the Scriptures, and offered up prayer. The second hymn having been sung, the Rev. Professor Watts delivered an excellent introductory discourse on "Ordination." Another hymn having been sung, Mr. Wm. Furnival, one of the deacons, read the letter of the church unanimously inviting Mr. Walker to become their pastor, with the reply that was received thereto. Mr. Schofield then put the usual questions, and elicited from Mr. Walker a very clear and concise statement of his call to the Christian ministry, his religious belief, and his idea of the ministerial work and duty. The Rev. Professor Barker, of Spring-hill College, then offered the ordination prayer. Another hymn having been sung, the Rev. Eustace R. Conder, M.A., of Leeds, delivered a lucid and able charge to the pastor, founded on 2 Tim. iv. 1-2. The service was concluded with singing and prayer. In the evening of the same day the Rev. R. H. Smith, of the Hope Chapel, Hanley, preached a masterly sermon to the people from Heb. xiii. 17.

SNEINTON.—On Wednesday, the 23rd ult., the Rev. Allan Mines, B.A., of Spring-hill College, Birmingham, was ordained to the pastorate of the Congregational church assembling at Albion Chapel. The Rev. W. Stevenson, M.A., read the Scriptures and offered prayer. The Rev. James Matheson, B.A., delivered the introductory discourse on the nature of a Christian church. The usual questions were proposed by the Rev. John Wild, and satisfactorily answered by Mr. J. P. Moore, senior deacon, and the newly-elected pastor. The Rev. T. R. Barker, of Spring-hill College, offered the ordination prayer. The charge to the minister was given by the Rev. R. W. Dale, M.A., of Birmingham (his late pastor), from the words of Paul to the Galatians, 1st chapter, 15th, 16th, and 17th verses. The Rev. J. Martin closed the service by prayer. The ministers of the town and neighbourhood dined together in the school-room, and a public meeting was held in the Exchange Hall, Nottingham, in the afternoon, the chair being occupied by Alexander Allott, Esq., when interesting addresses were delivered by the Revs. T. R. Barker, R. W. Dale, J. F. Stevenson, Allan Mines, and other ministers. The meeting then adjourned to the chapel, when the Rev. Dr. Allott, of Spring-hill College, preached to the people. The attendance was numerous on each occasion. Mr. Mines enters upon his ministry with very encouraging prospects of success, and so far his labours have been blessed beyond expectation.

THE REV. DR. ARCHER.—In Oxenden Chapel, Haymarket, on Monday evening, May 5th, was commemorated the thirtieth anniversary of the ordination of the Rev. Dr. Archer as minister of the United Presbyterian Church assembling there. The body of the chapel was filled with the hearers and friends of the rev. doctor, and a very enthusiastic and interesting meeting it was. After tea, W. S. Lindsay, Esq., M.P., was unanimously called to the chair; and in a very pleasant and appropriate speech, he, in his own name, as a member of the church, and in behalf of the whole congregation, presented the minister with a very magnificent timepiece, for the chimney or sideboard, valued, we understand, at about fifty guineas, bearing a suitable inscription, and adorned with the figure of Cecilia and the various instruments of music. Dr. Archer acknowledged this new and unexpected gift in a very feeling and affectionate spirit, giving a review of the history of the church—its elders, deacons, and membership—during the thirty years of his pastorate; and we are happy, though not surprised, to learn that, notwithstanding deaths and other bereavements, especially incident in a London charge, the roll of members at present is more than double what it was when the doctor was ordained; moreover, that all debt is extinguished, and that the funds for all purposes—schools, missions, ministry, &c.—are in a very prosperous and satisfactory state. Addresses were afterwards delivered by the Revs. Drs. King and M'Farlane, Rev. J. M'Whirter, John Geikie, and R. H. B. Ridgway, Esqs. Dr. Edmond and Mr. Redpath were prevented from being present, having started for the meeting of the United Presbyterian Synod, this week, in Edinburgh. In conclusion, the benediction was pronounced by Dr. Archer, and the meeting dismissed about ten o'clock.